

Murray History Advisory Board
Minutes for November 24, 2009

Attendance: Steve Meyers, Susan Wright, Jay Bollwinkel, Mary Ann Kirk (staff).

Visitor: Megan Braby (Murray High student)

1. Minutes for August 25, 2009 were approved on September 22 with two members present and one by telephone. This business was confirmed.
2. Staff reviewed previous agendas for past two months where a quorum was not present.
 - . Mary Ann was not sure what is happening with the Life on State Street project. Jay will bring back a summary for the next meeting in January.
 - . We received two CLG grants to do RLS surveys for most of the remaining areas of Murray. This will allow us to fine tune our register. Some communities put signs on poles to recognize these buildings.
 - . We are restoring a stained glass window from the old opera house.
3. The DHOD north boundary was changed to exclude property north of 4800 South. The city is working on a completely different plan for the area. They want to preserve some specific buildings but the area will not be focused on the historic character. Jay felt this can work in this area. The plan will be shared with some groups in December for feedback from the downtown owners and the Murray Arts Advisory Board in relationship to a performing arts center. Mary Ann asked how they feel about the Center Street area. Jay felt this should include a transition area. Board members agreed the residential area going east from Center Street should be protected and any expansion of the downtown area should go west of State and south and north of the current DHOD. Everyone agreed east of State includes many nice homes typical of Murray.
4. The Costco historic mural was discussed. The artists used the recommended material but the finish has failed and has affected the painting. We don't have enough money to fix it this year but will address it when the economy improves.
5. Mary Ann reviewed some of the historic background of the homes identified by the RLS survey as potential national registry nominations in the annexed area. We would need to gather more history for a national nomination but we are not sure we want to nominate all of these to the national register. However, they do qualify for our local registry without additional expense for history research. Board members agreed we should formally consider them at our meeting in January. If we want to gather more history information for a national nomination, we can do that later. Steve will help us gather more history for the homes around the Maxfield home and a home on Vine Street. Mary Ann explained that at some point we will review our entire local register and decide which ones we would like to nominate to our national registry multiple property listing. This will involve deciding which buildings best represent the history and architectural styles of Murray. Jay suggested we put together a photo and history of each. Mary Ann

said our goal is to get this information on the web site for our entire registry. We would probably need to pay someone to do this.

6. A demo request for 572 W Winchester was reviewed. Listed on our local registry, this is one of the earliest homes of Murray original built in 1862 but it is crumbling. We considered moving it to Wheeler Farm but a historic architect has looked at the building and it wouldn't hold together during a move. Board members agreed it has been sufficiently documented.
7. Steve said he is still concerned about the Freeze barn. He wondered why we can't move the building a little to the east onto park property. Mary Ann said the parks department was worried about how to prevent vandalism. Susan has volunteered to keep it on their property as the city talks about a park around the mansion. It could be used for a craft house. Mary Ann said it is nice to leave it in its historical context because it tells the story of the park area. Steve questioned if anyone would break into it and wondered what keeps people out of it now. Susan thought it could be used for parties if it was restored. The state professionals didn't think it retained its historical integrity. Board members still felt that it was historically significant. It does represent the evolution of this area. Mary Ann will try to keep in the conversation loop as discussion for the property development continues.
8. Mary Ann asked how the board feels about a "landmark" designation to preserve some of Murray's significant buildings. We considered this a few years ago, but there was concern from some about property rights. Steve felt we would have to have permission from the property owner. Mary Ann said there would have to be a public process. Mary Ann said that the Heritage Foundation has an easement program that protects historic property. Mary Ann will invite the Heritage Foundation to explain their program. Jay wondered what would be considered landmarks. There probably are not too many. Steve and Jay thought it ought to also consider how a landmark would affect a potential project. Mary Ann will also compile a list of those buildings that might qualify for this kind of designation and possible criteria.
9. Board members agreed this day and time is still the best.
10. Mary Ann passed out a draft for future activities in the coming year. She asked board members to review and make suggestions for priorities.